

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of: Giovannoni *et al*

Art Unit: 1656

Application No. 10 053,243

Filed: January 16, 2002

For: HIGH-THROUGHPUT MICROBIAL
CULTURING

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Date: May 10, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Thereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as being attached or enclosed herewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on May 10, 2002 as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: BOX MISSING PARTS, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231.

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SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculating the filing fee, please enter the following amendments in the above-referenced application:

In the Specification

Please insert the following header and paragraph on page one immediately before line 6:

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

This invention was made with government support under National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Grant, No. OIA-9977469. The government has certain rights in this invention.

Please replace the paragraph at Page 9, lines 16-23, with the following:

In certain embodiments, cells can also be cultured on conventional growth media, to compare growth rates, culturability, or like parameters. For instance, a sample of the raw source material may be used as a starting culture for growth on nutrient agar plates. In other instances, a portion of some or all of the microbial cultures that show growth in the micro-culture compartments (e.g., the compartments of a microtiter dish) can be used to inoculate traditional